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PRESS RELEASE

Embassy Statement on Rafiq Tagi's Murder

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The United States condemns the recent murder in Baku of journalist Rafiq Tagi and extends its deep condolences to Mr. Tagi's family, friends, colleagues and readers.

Like all murders, this reprehensible crime requires justice. In this particular case, the possibility exists that the attack on Mr. Tagi came in response to his journalistic work. This intensifies the urgency of solving this crime in order to ensure freedom of the media and of expression on all subjects, including religion and politics. Such freedoms are essential parts of every healthy democratic system.

We welcome the formation by the Government of Azerbaijan of a special working group to investigate the attack on Mr. Tagi and urge it to devote all necessary resources to bring the perpetrators of this heinous crime to justice.

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